(b) whether any decision have been taken in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Enquiry ordered to investigate the issue of the missing wagon has been completed. It is being examined in consultation with Ministry of Railways.

Re-employment of Defence Officer

499. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently deleted paragraph 13 of the order dated 30th May, 1998 regarding re-employment and thereby depriving a large number of senior officers from the benefit of re-employment under the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of officers affected by the aforesaid amendment to the Rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) No order of 30th May, 1998 exists on the subject of re-employed officers' retirement age in any of the three Services.

However, consequent upon enhancement of ages of retirement of service personnel by two years, age limits for re-employment of retired Army officers were raised by two years, i.e., from 53 years, which was the maximum age for initial re-employment, and 56 years, which was the maximum age for final release from re-employment to 55 and 58 years respectively, *vide* Army Instructions No. 9/2000 dated 1st June, 2000. Para 3 of the said Army Instructions, which had restricted the applicability of the revised ages of re-employment to only those officers retired and re-employed after 30.5.2000, was deleted *vide* orders dated 30th March, 2001, to ensure parity among the three Services. The deletion of Para 3 of Army Instructions 9/2000 has not resulted in denial of benefit of re-employment to any officer.

242 officers were released from re-employed service on attaining pre-revised age of 56 years for release from re-employment, between the period 30th May 2000 to 29th March, 2001. 350 officers who would otherwise have been released on attaining the age of 56 years can now serve upto 58 years of age.